



June, 1991

Volume XXII Number 5

FREE

## PROUD YOUNG ARTISTS



Pran Holt (left) describes her artwork to a friend at the Annual Potrero Library Children's Art Show. (See story Page 6)  
Vas Arnautoff photo

## INSIDE VIEW

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## MYSTERY ON THE HILL

### Questions, Fears Linger Over Gas Drum Incident

By Ruth Passen

Unanswered questions persist while safety concerns continue to grow about seven suspicious gasoline-filled drums discovered in the middle of the night May 24 in an unfinished condominium complex at Carolina and Southern Heights.

A call to 911 from a neighbor disturbed by loud sounds and unusual activities at the building site brought police to the Carolina Street construction work entrance shortly after 4 a.m. They located seven drums of gasoline — one leaking and several lying on their sides — placed around the structure in the garage area.

Police immediately contacted the San Francisco Fire Dept. Arson Squad, which sealed the area off to traffic. Authorities also ordered the adjacent Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Child Development Center, a daycare facility, closed for the day.

Owners of the property, Lynn and Jim Suseoff, said they were puzzled by the drums found on their property, and claimed to have no knowledge about them.

The site is completely enclosed by a fence and secured by locks at the Carolina Street entrance and at the entrances to the structure at 2,4,6, and 8 Southern Heights. A new lock was installed by the Suseoffs after the Fire Dept. removed the drums from the property.

"Neither chain, lock or gate were forced open," said Arson Squad Investigator Lt. Paul Murray. Given this, how did someone gain access to the property? Did whoever placed the drums inside the site in fact have a key?

Conflict also persists about exactly when the drums were placed at the site. Witnesses who called police observed a light colored, full-sized van speeding away from the site at approximately 4:13 a.m. on May 24. But other witnesses claimed the drums were in clear sight as early as May 22. Murray has disputed that sighting and stated firmly that the drums were not in view from the street when police and firefighters arrived after the early morning call.

"No crime has been committed, except maybe trespassing," Murray told the View. "And whether the intent was arson, we don't know."

Murray acknowledged that "an extremely enormous fire would have ensued with just one or two drums going off," if they had been ignited, and pointed out that "one ounce of gasoline will move a vehicle 800 feet." Because the drums were set in areas around the structure, the Arson Squad Inspector noted that there wouldn't have been as much damage as "one might imagine," and stressed that much more damage would have been sustained by firefighters in the area.

It would have been unlikely for a fireball to develop in such a situation, said chemical process engineer Ralph Tice. But he noted that it would be possible "if the heat from the fire was great enough, the drums were close together and all burst simultaneously from the heat."

Although construction on the three-story building stopped almost a year ago, property owners told The View that work was slated to begin again that week. A call to the O'Donoghue Construction Co., the last firm to work on the structure, brought a reply from attorney George Wolff, who refused to comment on the status of his client's work on the property. Wolff did admit, however, that O'Donoghue retained a key to the premises.

The site has been the source of controversy on the Hill for more than two decades, beginning with fire damage to several rooms of a previous structure on that lot over a period of years. And more than 10 years ago, an explosion and fire finally destroyed the entire building, leaving a burnt-out shell on the lot for a number of years.

Plans to build the three-story condo units were vociferously opposed by many neighbors, though opposition appeared to abate once construction began. Work on the building ceases abruptly a year ago; the building remains unfinished and some vandalism on the site has occurred since.

With the incident under investigation, the Fire Dept.'s Arson Task Force asks anyone with information, no matter how insignificant it may appear to be, to call them at 861-8000 X301.

Dan Berman contributed to this story.

## Police Redistricting Nixed for the Hill

Potrero Hill will no longer be carved into two separate police districts, as was initially set forth in a city-wide police redistricting plan slated to take effect July 1.

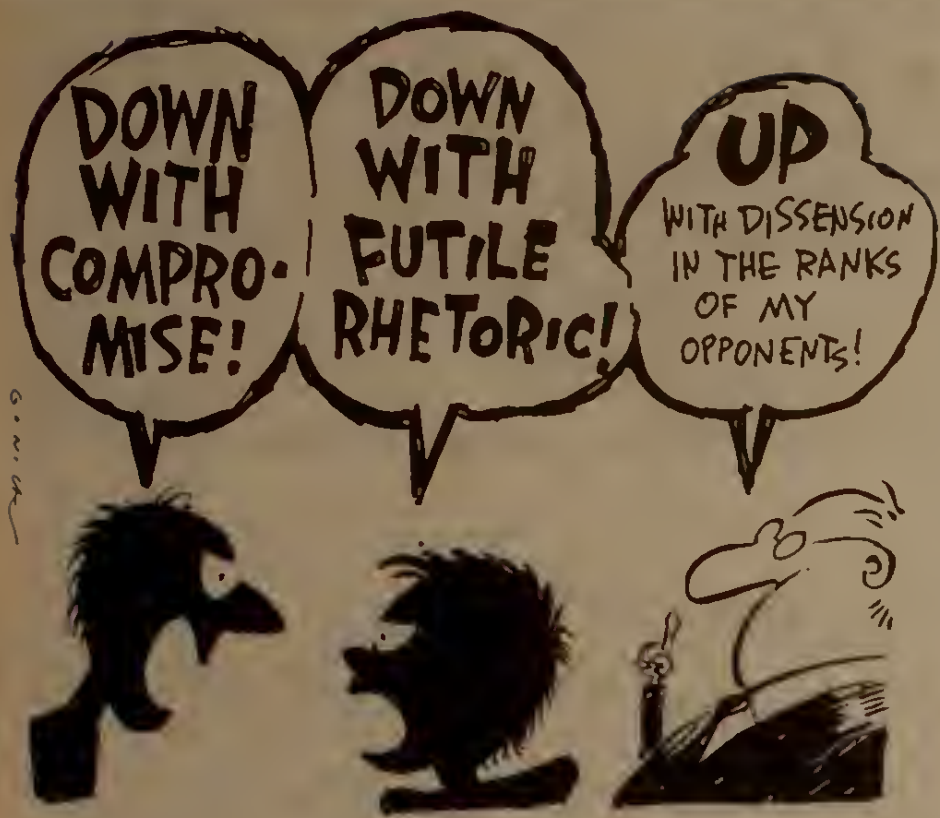
The plan had called for the western boundary of Potrero Station territory to be moved from its current line at Highway 101 to Delmar Street. This would have meant that everyone on the west side of Delmar, as well as those on Rhode Island, Kansas, Vermont and San Bruno Streets would have been under Mission Station jurisdiction.

"We have been told verbally that this part of the plan has been done away with," said Officer Jay Parashis of the Potrero Police Station. "Physically it would not have been effective. Police cars coming from the Mission would have had to take Army or Mariposa Streets to reach Potrero Hill."

Many of the streets leading from the Mission District to Potrero Hill are blocked by the freeway or San Francisco General Hospital.

— J.B.





## IN OUR VIEW

### It's Only Fair

The hottest potato roasting in the city's budget fire so far appears to be the issue of salary increases for the thousands of men and women who work for the City and County of San Francisco. And however one looks at it, it seems to be a no-win situation.

If the city followed the salary-setting procedure okayed by the voters 16 years ago, it would cost some \$70 million, at a time when the city's budget shortfall is estimated to exceed \$100 million. But under the current formula, authored in 1975 by arch-conservative realtor John Barbegelata, collective bargaining was replaced by a scheme that surveyed workers in other areas and set San Francisco salaries based on a complicated formula. City officials pretty much have the option of paying those raises — this year averaging 5.6 percent — or providing no increase at all. What has happened so far, of course, is that a majority of the Board of Supervisors has voted for the raise and Mayor Art Agnos has indicated he will veto it.

The unprecedented budget crisis being faced by the City — and the State, for that matter — are certainly reflections of the current economic recession. But they also reflect serious problems with "business as usual" approaches to governmental decision-making, and there is no better time than the present for public officials to hear a loud and resounding demand from the people who elected them: No more business as usual.

There is much about the City Charter that is cumbersome, obsolete and badly in need of change. Unfortunately, an attempt to overhaul the charter failed at the polls a decade ago. But there has never been a better time to begin to replace the labyrinthine salary-setting formula with a system of genuine collective bargaining. Employees of the State of California, as well as most cities and counties around the state, bargain with their employers for pay, benefits and conditions of work. At a time when a city or county is facing a budget crisis, workers may not end up with everything they believe they deserve, but in negotiations there is room for give-and-take, for compromise, and eventually a solution.

One year ago this month, Agnos announced the appointment of a Task Force on Collective Bargaining, and he called this process "a proven method of allowing employees to participate in decisions about their working lives." After a year, resistance on all sides has left the city mired in the quicksand of an outmoded scheme that is fair neither to city workers nor those who must make budgetary decisions. It is time to begin in earnest to develop a system of collective bargaining for San Francisco.

## OUR READERS WRITE



### Natural Path

Editor:

Thank you for the squib, "Potrero Hill Lawyer Honored," in the May 1991 "Ten Years Ago."

But the first squib in that column, the 19th Street "Pathway Debate," gives a version of that "debate" that is so distorted and one-sided as to give an entirely false impression to any reader not familiar with its long, torturous, painful history.

To summarize; (1) the adjacent property owners liked the pathway — bordered by shrubs, trees, wild flowers — a kind of Mount Tamalpais oasis in the middle of houses and paved streets; (2) no one, to my knowledge, had ever been injured using the path — and that is still true; (3) for those not wanting to use the path, there was and is a choice of walking one block in either direction, to 18th Street or to 20th Street, to reach a paved sidewalk; (4) the cost of constructing the steps would have been assessed primarily to the adjacent property owners (a small sum, far less than the cost, was available, or so we were told — but all cost above that small sum would be an assessment); (5) the responsibility for all maintenance would be that of the adjacent property owners — cleaning, repairs, etc.; (6) injuries due to falls on the steps would likewise be the responsibility of the adjacent property owners.

Finally, to bring the picture up to date,

one of the adjacent property owners has worked long and hard to make the patch truly beautiful — planting and nurturing native wildflowers and other plants, attracting birds and butterflies, placing rocks so as to make the path even easier to use. All Hill dwellers should now take a look at this serene and lovely little hillside garden, and enjoy it.

Those who advocated and worked long and hard for stairs proposed concrete steps bordered by a cyclone fence. Think about that when you look at the path.

Doris Brin Walker Roberson  
Rhode Island Street

### Hall of Fame

Editor:

Thanks for mentioning the Lazzari Playground thing in *The Potrero View* (May, 1991 Quickview, Page 7).

But you left out Cooperstown. Tony's making it is 95 percent of the pie. Make that 98 percent. He goes into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown on July 21, 1991, and I'm trying to get a planeload of people who like baseball and have not as yet seen Cooperstown, and trying to tie it in with a night or two at the Taj Mahal or Harrahs at Atlantic City.

It would be nice to have a sign on the back of the diamond about the dedication, though, in the meantime.

Tony Stratta  
31st Avenue



Masthead design by  
Giacomo Patri

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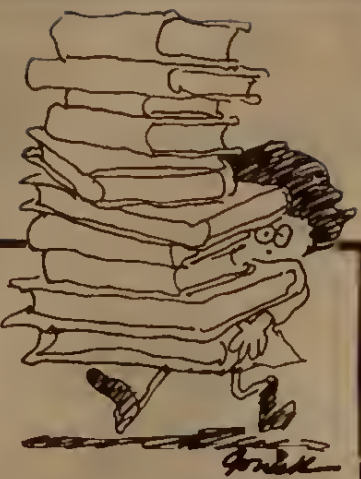
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LIBRARY NEWS  
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ADULT SERVICES

Here's your warning: just because these are my last columns, don't expect me to be cheerful. Here's the sad story of Potrero Branch's budget for adult books.

In March, I anticipated a donation to the library that didn't materialize. (Does anyone wonder why, much as we appreciate donations, we would prefer to operate with a reliable city budget?) Anticipating some extra money, I ordered several titles from a list of classic fiction. I don't really regret doing that; you deserve to find clean, readable editions of classic novels on the shelf. But those aren't the kind of high-demand books I usually order, given our limited budget.

How limited is our book budget? In 1986-87, the earliest year for which I could find statistics, our budget for adult books was \$8,000. That may sound like a lot, but books are expensive, and we have to stretch that money over a wide range of reading interests. By 1990-91, the budget had gone down to \$5,800, and the price of books had gone up. Even a short novel costs \$20 and most books I order are more than \$20. (The library receives a substantial discount, but our budgets are based on retail prices.)

So after I ordered those nice classic fiction titles I was down to \$200, at most, for my April monthly order list. Out of a list of 244 titles, I could only afford to order 19. Here are just a few of the titles I couldn't afford — those books which hurt me most not to order.

I regret not being able to order two books for the Black Studies collection: "There are no Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing up in the Other America" by Alex Kotlowitz, and James Campbell's "Talking at the Gates: A Life of James Baldwin." For you optimists, I'm sorry we won't have "Over Fifty: The Resource Book for the Better Half of Your Life." "Inside Central America: Its People, Politics, and History" looks useful both for students and general readers wanting to understand the area.

William Jordan's "Divorce Among the Gulls: An Uncommon Look at Human Nature," a collection of essays examining our intimate kinship with animals, looks like that rare science book that appeals to non-scientists also. Who could resist the story of two strongwilled seagulls who settled their controversy over eggs with shared custody? For you artists, I regret not ordering John Ross'

"The Complete Printmaker: History and Techniques," and for you writers, Caroline Herron's "Writers" Guide to Copyright." Who knows, somebody up here might even need "Money Troubles," legal strategies on coping with debt, published by Nolo Press, a well-known publisher of practical legal books for general readers — non-lawyers, that is.

For those of you who just want a good read, I'm sorry not to have Bay Area author Theodore Roszak's well-reviewed novel on the movie business, "Flicker." And for those of you who just want a good listen, I would have ordered audiotapes of Tim O'Brien's classic on Vietnam, "The Things They Carried," and "Mary Reilly," novelist Valerie Martin's version of the Jekyll, Hyde story.

So don't come looking for these books on our shelves; not until they come out in paperback editions. As usual, we can order books we don't have from other branches. And since I'm on the subject of a wish list (sort of) I have an ad on my desk for the new edition of the "Oxford English Dictionary." Anybody want to be a library angel? It's \$2,500. See you at the library. . . until August! As of our latest news flash (5/22/91, 7 p.m.) branch reductions will be delayed until August 1, not July 1. Delayed, but still coming. Sorry.

Proposed hour cuts now under discussion are elimination of the Tuesday morning hours (10 a.m. - noon) and closing at 8 p.m. on Wednesdays instead of 9 p.m. Those reductions seemed to have the least negative impact on library users and more benefits for Mission Branch, which will have to supply staff when Potrero needs help.

Kay Roberts  
Branch Librarian

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Do you think the promise of two free tickets to a Giants game could entice your child to read this summer? This is the prize being offered to all who join the summer reading club and read eight books. Even if your child doesn't need enticing, feel free to sign him/her up for the club. The program runs from June 17 through August 17 and signups start now. The two free tickets admit one child and one adult to a Giants game.

A good time to sign up your child would be after a special performance of "Hansel and Gretel" by Opera Piccola on Saturday, June 15 at 1 p.m. here at the Potrero Library. This children's theatre troupe's performance will be unique because the audience actually gets to participate in it. So, if your child would like to meet this legendary pair of siblings up close, please bring him/her to the performance.

Movies for preschoolers will be shown at 9:15 and 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 11. The infant/toddler lapsit (0-3 yrs.) will meet every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. Pre-school Storytime (3-5 yrs.) will meet every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and Family Storytime (all ages) will meet every Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Cathy Nyhan  
Children's Librarian

TEN YEARS AGO  
In The View

HILL LANDMARK SINCE 1919

The June, 1981 issue of the VIEW carried on its front page two pictures of the Chiotras Market on Rhode Island Street. The top picture was taken in 1919 and showed the founder, Chris Chiotras, behind the counter of his then-new shop, which featured two rows of melons on the floor, large sacks of flour, and a coiled strip of fly-catching paper hanging from the central light fixture.

Below that was a 1981 photograph of Chris' son, Pete Chiotras, in the same position behind the counter of this Potrero Hill institution — now featuring a refrigerated deli counter.

Today Pete's daughter, Tina, continues the tradition behind the counter at the refurbished and elegantly stocked family market at 858 Rhode Island Street.

(I remember Chris Chiotras as an old man, helping Pete out at the cash register, and from time to time chatting about his boyhood as a shepherd in the mountains of Greece.)

OPPOSITION TO LIBRARY MURAL

Plans to install a mural about the history of Potrero Hill on an outside wall of the 20th Street library were being opposed in 1981. The group opposing the mural's installation issued a rather enigmatic statement to the effect that they "prefer a more natural setting to compliment (sic) the current mix of residential and commercial properties on our block . . . A painted mural represents the introduction of a man-made decoration into, what now, is a natural environment of bottle brush trees and boxwood."

MISCELLANEA

A Sally Taylor feature about haircuts on the Hill featured Flo Cimino — born on Potrero Hill and stylist to the Hill since 1953 — and Michael Gary & Company, a salon that had just opened on 20th Street in 1981 . . . Tina Sommers was photographed playing her "three row diatonic button accordion" at Slovenian Hall on Vermont Street . . . The San Francisco Pro Basketball League opened its fourth season at the Rec in June of 1981 . . . A box in the June '81 VIEW cryptically noted that on June 29, 1904 "Police catch tourists in OPIUM DEN."

Egad!

— Arden Arnautoff

BOOST FOR OMEGAS



A charity ball to benefit the Hill-based Omega Boys Club was proclaimed a huge success by sponsors, the San Francisco Spinster's Club. Joe Marshall, Omega Club Director (second from left) is flanked (l/r) by Cheryl Jennings (KGO-TV); Carol Malouf, Spinster Charity Co-Chair; Steve Davis (KGO-TV); and Rosemarie Ovian (Co-Chair).

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

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Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

Ongoing Neighborhood House Community Meetings

|                                 |                     |                |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Omega Boys Club - Full Meetings | 1st & 3rd Thursdays | 7:30 PM        |
| Omega Weekly Meetings           | Every Tuesday       | 7:30 PM        |
| Potrero Hill Girls Club         | Mondays             | 5:00 - 7:00 PM |
| Student Study Hall              | Tuesdays            | 5:00 - 7:00 PM |
| Youth Council Meetings          | Wednesdays          | 6:00 PM        |
| AI - Anon                       | Thursdays           | 6:30 - 7:30 PM |
| Alcohol Anonymous               | Sun, Mon, & Thurs   | 8:30 PM        |
| Cocaine Anonymous               | Saturdays           | 6:00 - 7:00 PM |

The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House offers ongoing programs for developmentally disabled adults which include basic education, cultural enrichment, consumer & health education, field trips, sensomotor development, work training, group and individual counseling.

Senior Citizens enjoy hot meals every weekday at a nominal charge. Continuing senior programs include bingo games, information & referral counseling, social hour, games & recreation.

The "NABE" provides facilities & meeting space for use by community groups, individuals and businesses. These facilities include the auditorium for theatre presentations, lectures, workshops and wedding receptions.

Child care is available at the Child Development Center and the Potrero Hill Neighborhood Theatre produces scheduled performances throughout the year. Other community facilities include a mini-park, Arts & Crafts classes, Photography workshops and classes, a gymnasium and recreational space plus a bulletin board with job and event listings.

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# Filming on the Hill Gets Few Raves from Neighbors

By Peter Firth

Larry Masnada lives and works at 20th and Wisconsin Streets and wishes the film industry would spread itself around the Hill a little more. Masnada said recently two different film companies were on his street within a week. Citing noise and congestion in front of his house and in his driveway, he would like to see some form of control over the frequency of filming on his doorstep.

Marsha Jacobs lives across the street from Masnada and is equally concerned about the frequent filming. "Film crews vary in their politeness and concern for the neighborhood," said Jacobs, adding that "Ten o'clock at night in the winter is late for a crew to be out there."

Jerry Ganley parks his car on Rhode Island Street at night, and was chagrined to find recently that all the parking spots on both sides of the street in front of his house were placarded for towaway at 7 a.m. the next morning. A few days before, he had received a notice, required by the city, explaining that a film company would be shooting on his block in the near future, with a telephone number to call if there were any questions.

"It wouldn't be so bad if they would come at 8:30 or 9 when most people have already left for work," Ganley noted, "but for a 7 a.m. moving time I have to get up early and move my car or park several blocks away all night the previous evening while the parking places on the street are empty. I realize the film companies have to work long days, but I've watched them over the years, and there's a great deal of time during the day when they aren't doing anything. Why can't they start a little later, and do something tangible instead of just talking about wanting to minimize their disruption of the neighborhood?"

Robin Eickman has been City Hall's liaison with the film industry for 11 years, and tries to function as a buffer between film companies and union locals, neighborhood problems or bureaucratic. Her office is a desk in the anteroom of the Mayor's Office at City Hall, with a telephone and a typewriter she brought from home. She has little funding and no staff.

Lacking a computer, she couldn't tell the View how many film or video use agreements she has issued in front of Masnada's house or even on Potrero Hill as a whole. Approximately 350 agreements were issued citywide last year, many of them being one-day commercial shoots, or stills. Eickman said that if someone is sick or otherwise unable to move a car by the posted time, they can call her at 554-6144 the day before and she will tell the police not to ticket or tow the car. She had no idea of how many film organizations didn't bother to get permits, but every commercial film venture, whether movie, video or still, is required by the city to have one.

A former Hill resident, Eickman juggles a concern for the quality of life in the

city's neighborhoods with an ardent support for the film and video industry as an important source of revenue for the city and Northern California. "The real money comes from what the film and video industry spend when they come to town," she said, adding that in the last three years the city has actively pursued filmmakers. It is unclear how much of that money reaches Hill businesses or the many Hill residents who are professional film technicians and members of film workers unions.

"Midnight Caller," a San Francisco based company, spent \$12 million here last year, with 90 percent of its crew locally hired, she noted. Other film companies may not be quite so beneficial to the city, but they still spend a lot of money on hotels, restaurants, catering, limos, special effects studios, etc.

Official city filming hours are 7 a.m. - 10 p.m., but one high budget film company worked out a deal with Telegraph Hill residents to film all night for four consecutive nights. Eickman said this had never been done before in a residential neighborhood and she was opposed to the idea, but has no authority to prevent film companies from negotiating directly with residents. She said that 97 percent of the residents signed a petition accepting the all night filming, but Kearny Street resident Gerald Hurtado believes that is "gross exaggeration, and many of those polled didn't even live on the affected street."

According to June Fraps, President of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers Association, no one saw the results of the petition, although her neighborhood group did negotiate a one-time \$40,000 payment from the film company in support of children's, senior, after school, and other youth programs at the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center. Half of this has been paid and half will be paid when — or if — the film breaks even. Hurtado said the four nights of shooting was "a little like being in the belly of a factory: klieg lights lighting up everything, tow trucks running back and forth, water trucks with noisy diesel pumps spraying water all night long." Eickman said she did not know what would happen if one of the neighbors who chose not to sign the film company petition exercised their right to peace and quiet between 10 p.m. - 7 a.m., which is supposedly guaranteed in an existing city statute. There was also some question among members of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers Association as to their right to negotiate a deal that has an impact on the entire community.

There are currently no guidelines for compensation by film companies to either neighborhood groups or neighbors themselves, and, commented Eickman, "up to now, whoever has screamed the loudest" has been the recipient.

The city recently established a Film Commission. Whether it will, in fact, have any effect on the relationship between filmmakers and the neighborhoods in which they work remains to be seen.



St. Teresa's Church at 19th and Connecticut Sts. (above) was one of many Hill venues to serve as "location" for films, television shows and commercials. Our neighborhood's sweeping views and dramatic hills have led it to serve as backdrop for such films as "Bullitt," "They Call Me Mr. Tibbs," "Choo-Choo and the Philly Flash," "Burglar" and "Pacific Heights," as well as TV series such as "The Streets of San Francisco" and "Crazy Like a Fox."

Ruth Possen photo



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# City Subsidy Dries up for Housing on PG&E Tank Site

By Judy Baston

For 39 years, a huge PG&E natural gas storage tank sat on a three-acre lot on Pennsylvania Street and dominated the Potrero Hill skyline. And ever since it was announced nearly three years ago that the mammoth structure would be torn down, Hill residents have speculated about what would be built on that lot.

Mayor Art Agnos frequently cited that area as a likely site for a development that would include affordable housing, and, in fact, last fall, the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH) put out a Request for Proposals from developers interested in building on the site.

Underlying the premise of affordable housing was the expectation of a subsidy from the MOH that could lower the prices of housing units to qualified first-time buyers. Several developers drew up plans expecting the City would be able to throw some \$3 million into the pot by way of subsidies.

But City — and even Federal — fiscal problems have come home to roost on Pennsylvania Street, and on May 16, two developers interested in building housing on the site were told that the City would not be able to afford to provide a subsidy for any development that would be built there.

Some \$7 million in federal housing funds were expected for San Francisco this year, with \$12 million expected next year. None have been received this year, and next year's funding will be cut to no more than \$7 million.

And with the slowdown in highrise office construction, the \$3 million per year expected to fill the Office Affordable Housing Production Program (OAHPP) coffers has all but dried up. Last year, a number of developers paid fees in advance to avoid rising rates, and no additional money is expected in that program in the next 12-15 months, MOH representatives warn.

Up until last month, it was assumed that because of its financial contribution, the City could choose a developer, and then help that firm negotiate with landowner PG&E to arrive at a purchase price for the site. But, MOH staffer Mark Trotz told a meeting of concerned Hill residents May 23, "Without providing any funding, the City is not in any position to select."

The fiscal bombshell was a shock to both the developers and involved Hill residents on two counts: without the subsidy, prices of the units would inevitably rise, and without the city's official participation, developers are essentially on their own in their bargaining with PG&E.

Two developers who had drawn up plans for housing on the site attended

the May 23 meeting and presented their plans to approximately a dozen community residents. Many of whom had also attended previous sessions on prospects for the site.

One plan, offered by the Mendell Terrace Group, would contain 60 separate two-three-and-four bedroom units built in a horseshoe pattern. Each unit would have a separate back yard, and the development would contain several totlots and a community building. The units, said developer T.J. Cook, would open up to the back yards, and "be oriented to children, something we don't have much of on the Hill." In addition, several high poplars and pines would be placed as a buffer at the back of the development.

Architect for the team is Ralph Butterfield, who worked on the Hill's Parkview Heights, and who advocated "a design with a nice detailing, lively colors and intense landscape treatment."

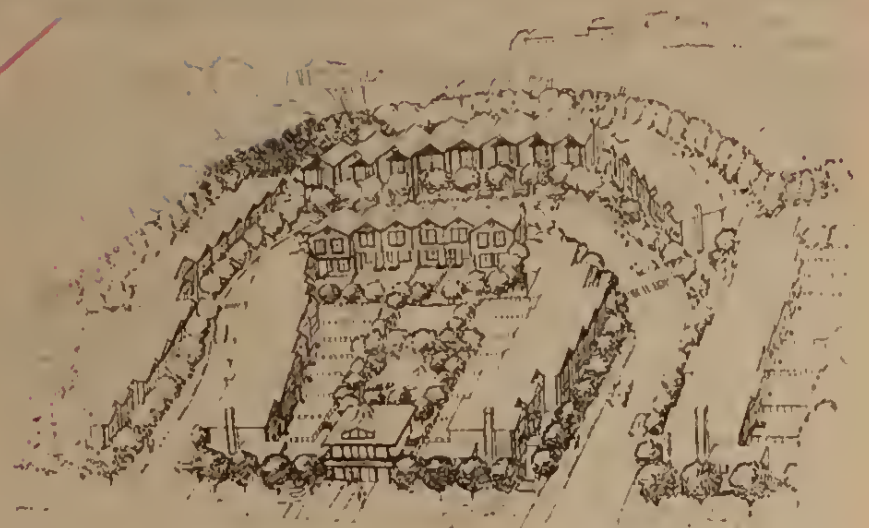
The second plan, offered by Future Perfect, would contain 77 units in stacked, multi-unit buildings with an average of 10 units per building. While some lower units would have yard space, most would not.

Space with community usage "would belong to the community rather than just to individuals," noted developer Rhody Mc Coy. The plan also contains retail storefronts and live/work lofts at the Pennsylvania Street frontage. Sue Associates of Oakland are architects for the plan, and Jim Queen of the Potrero Hill Community Development Corporation is also part of this team.

Since the two developers had only known for one week that the expected \$3 million in City subsidy would not be available, neither was prepared to make a specific commitment about what the asking prices of their units would be. Although both were below market rate, there appeared to be a considerable discrepancy between the informal prices quoted by the two.

However, the View learned in a telephone interview with the Mayor's Office of Housing representatives that while the subsidy had been expected, both developers had been able to price their units at a cost deemed affordable for a family of four making 100 percent of median income (a salary of about \$49,999 per year). It remains unclear then, how without any subsidy at all, one developer could indicate a price far lower than the other.

Next step in the process, now that the City is essentially out of the picture, will be for the two developers to negotiate with PG&E's Will Hardeen. Any Hill residents who want more information about the process, or want to express their views to PG&E on the future plans for the site, can call Hardeen at 695-3436.



Two proposals for housing on former PG&E tank site: Above, Mendell Terrace plan, with Pennsylvania Street at front of drawing. Below, Future Perfect plan, with Pennsylvania Street at right.



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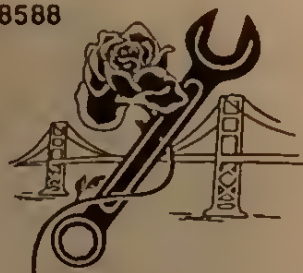
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# Library Exhibit Features Hill Youngsters' Art Works

More than 40 Potrero Hill youngsters are displaying their talent in the second annual Children's Art Show which opened May 18 at the Hill's branch library, 1616 20th St. The show features the work of young artists up through age 13. Story teller Belinda Sullivan entertained at the opening party, at which balloons and refreshments added to the festive air.

Showing their work are: Jacob Leo En-ero Berman, Patrick Joaquin Boileau, Johnnie Coleman, Viola Calrk, Dorothy Curry, Greg Curry, Nujawanda Daniels, Alicia de Castro, Katherine Doyle, Maggie Doyle, Reed Bennett-Eisen, Jason Fua, Sam Fuchs, Irenetta Gomez, Tashara Gomez, Kate Gong, Steven Gong, Anna

Gonick, Sophie Gonick, Christopher Harrison, Amber Hill, Linda Ho, Zella Holmes, Fran Holt, Frank Holt, Claire Huysen-trnyt.

Also: Jimmika Johnson, Sanny Lee, Clarissa Moore, Lavaida Moore, Christina Pavloff, Anna Roberts, Maggie Roberts, Rebecca Roberts, Eli Rudnick, Ruby Rud-nick, Alexi Saldamando, Ana Saldamando, Summer Shapiro, Andrea Specter, Marlo Surath, Bryce Therrien, Kyle Therrien, Hanalei Tua, Melinda Tua, and James Weinberger.

Students of the art class at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House also participated in a group display.



Entertainment at the annual children's art show May 18 included storyteller Belinda Sullivan (above), while Sam Fuchs (below) admired his and other works on exhibit.

Vas Arnautoff photos

## HILL AWARDEE



Hill resident Kristine Firth is one of 12 San Francisco high school students to be named California Arts Scholars and who will attend the California State Summer School for the Arts at Mills College in Oakland, July 13-Aug. 10. Firth will represent University High School in theatre. Firth and the other scholars received commemorative medallions and state greetings, as well as an official proclamation. The ceremony took place May 10 at the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum in Golden Gate Park. Firth lives on Arkansas Street with her parents and brother. Ruth Passen photo

# Pro-Am Hoopster League Scheduled at Rec Center

Potrero Hill's Rec Center, along with Kezar Pavilion, will again be the venue for the 12th Annual Summer Bay Area Pro-Am Basketball League, which tips off at Kezar at 8 p.m., June 17. Teams from San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose and San Mateo will vie in the nine-week competition.

Rec Center director Jon Greenberg, who also directs the League -- which is sanctioned by the NCAA and the NBA -- feels this year's competition will prove to be most exciting. Teams are composed of current and past college stars, NBA players, top flight amateurs and local players now active in European basket-ball.

Games will be played at Kezar (Stan-yan and Waller Streets) every Monday and Thursday and at the Rec Center on

Arkansas Street on Tuesday and Wednes-day night. All games start at 8 p.m.

Some of the players committed to play in the league include: Lester Conner (Milwaukee Bucks); Brian Shaw (Boston Celtics); Greg Foster (Indiana Pacers); Peter Thibaux (Italy); Harold Keeling (France); and Gary Payton (Portland). In addition, prospective players may ask any coach on game night for possible inclusion as there is an open-roster policy.

As an extra feature, the Golden State Warriors will enter a team composed of rookies and free agents and play nine exhibition games during three weekends against pro-am competition. The Rec Center will host three of the games on June 28 and 29 at 7 p.m., and June 30 at 2 p.m. Again, admission to all games is free.



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The next time you think you don't have enough time for exercise, take a walk and think about it. That's the suggestion of the S.F. Chapter of the American Heart Association, which is offering a free pamphlet entitled "Walking for a Healthy Heart." All that's required is a self-addressed, 52-cent stamped, long envelope to the American Heart Assn., S.F. Chapter at 120 Montgomery St., S.F. 94104.



Off-Garde Theatre group is presenting "An Evening of John Guare", four one-act plays by the Pulitzer Prize nominee beginning Thursday, June 6 at 8 p.m. Regular performances will be Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through June 22 at the Center Space Theatre, 2840 Marinopolis St. at 18th. Call 928-6374 for reservations.

Bay Area Theatresports continues to put the "jock" in jocular. On Monday nights June 3, 10, 17 and 24 at 8 p.m. The ensemble of Bay Area improvisational performers will perform what they call "the best comedy never written" at the New Performance Gallery, 3153-17th St. Admission is \$7 to \$10 depending on the date. Call 824-8220 for info and reservations.

A tour of the city's murals can be rewarding. Here are some of the places that are featuring summer tours: Capp Street Project, 240-14th St., through June 29; South of Market Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St., through June 29; "Chicano Art: Resistance and Affirmation" at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Van Ness Avenue and McAllister Street, June 27-Sept. 25; and the rededication of Balmy Alley is set for Sunday, June 30. Now through the end of the month visitors can view works in progress in the alley off 24th Street near Harrison Street.

Film Arts Festival is looking for entries for the annual showcase of independent media in the Bay Area, which takes place Oct. 30-Nov. 3 at the Roxie Cinema. Deadline is July 26. Call 552-0602 for info.

Friends, partners and family members who are caring for an adult with AIDS or symptomatic HIV infection are being sought by U.C. San Francisco researchers for a new study of the experiences of these caregivers. More than 500 persons will be interviewed to learn about the day-to-day lives of informed care-givers. Participants will receive \$25 per interview for three interviews over a 12-month period. Interested persons should call 476-7732 or 476-7733.

Mayor Art Agnos has announced plans to pursue San Francisco's official host city status for the 50th anniversary of the United Nation's founding here. After a two-month international conference in the City's Opera House, the UN Charter was signed in Herbst Theater on June 26, 1945. "As the birthplace of the UN and a city long identified with the international peace movement, San Francisco is a fitting and appropriate place for this commemoration to take place," the Mayor said.

The Cartoon Art Museum, 665 Third St., presents Trina Robbins on June 15, and Mark Landman on June 22, from 1-4 p.m. Also on exhibit at the museum is "Electronic Comics and Computer Art." Call 546-9481 for more info.

The Annual "Juneteenth Festival" takes place June 15 and 16 at Hamilton Recreation Park, Geary and Steiner Streets. The event honors the date in 1965 when Texas slaves were finally told that they were free. African Americans celebrate this date to honor their ancestors day of emancipation.

Lectures, jazz and symposia are on tap at the Fine Arts Museum of S.F. in the first couple of weeks of June. The Legion of Honor Museum, 34th Avenue at Clement Street, will present a free lecture on the exhibition "Gold of Greece: Jewelry and Ornaments from the Benaki Museum" at 1:30 p.m. June 5. At 5:30 the same day, "On Tap", an extravaganza of music and dance from the Golden Age of jazz, will accompany the opening of a new exhibition of works by California women artists at the DeYoung Museum in Golden Gate Park. A symposium on "the Old of Greece" will be held from 2 - 5 p.m. on June 8 at the Legion of Honor with tickets priced at \$10 (students - \$5, with ID). More info 750-3608.

The pleasures and perils of genius, with Mozart as an example, will be explored at a special weekend symposium to be presented by the University of California, San Francisco, Friday through Sunday, June 7-9. The event will take place at the UCSF Laurel Heights Campus, 3333 California St. Tuition is \$150 for the main auditorium and \$80 for adjacent conference rooms with television monitors. Registration info at 476-5808.

Congratulations to newlyweds Tony Alvide and Andriette Gillard (Tony teaches at Potrero Hill Middle School); and Lori Jean Robinson and Cannon Hatten (Lori is Director of the Neighborhood House's Social Development Center program).

A "Simply For Seniors" fair takes place June 13 at Southeast Community College, 1800 Oakdale, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This fair is all about making life easier — featuring aids, equipment, and devices that promote and support independence. Transportation, translation and refreshments will be provided. For further info call Ramona Davies, Services for Seniors at 922-5438.

UCSF offers free blood screenings for hepatitis June 4, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., in the Medical Sciences Bldg. lobby, 513 Parnassus Ave. According to the American Liver Foundation, more than a million people may have hepatitis but do not know it. Early detection is critical so that doctors can counsel patients on treatment. Symptoms may include fatigue, nausea and loss of appetite, or there may be no symptoms at all. Call 476-2557 for more info.

One more round on 18th and Arkansas Streets. An appeal has been filed protesting the Planning Commission's decision to grant a conditional use permit to the plan to build condos and live/work units on that controversial slope. The matter will be a special order of business during the Board of Supervisors session Monday, June 3.

Plan to attend an "Exotic Tea" at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St., Sunday, June 23, 3-6 p.m. The fund-raiser features male waiters and entertainers. Call 826-8080 for cost and more info.

A federal government rehabilitation grant of \$250,000 for the repair of the Potrero Hill Rec Center on Arkansas Street has been approved, and work on the project should begin "in about a year and a half," according to the Center's director Jon Greenberg. The federal money is expected to provide 70 percent of the funds needed to replace the gym floor and refurbish the bathrooms, showers and kitchen. The remaining 30 percent will come from Open Space funds.

The Rec and Park Department announces a free concert by the San Francisco City Chorus at Old Mission Dolores, Dolores and 17th Streets, on June 8 at 8 p.m., and June 9 at 5 p.m. The chorus will perform Misa Criolla by Ramirez, and the Lord Nelson Mass by Haydn. The event is free. And at Stern Grove on June 9 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., the Rec and Park Department introduces the public to the many and varied programs and activities offered throughout the city for children, teens, adults and seniors. Stage entertainment will be provided, as well as a music and dance entertainment. Stern Grove is located at 19th Ave. and Sloat Boulevard. For more info call 666-7107.

The architecture of the Presidio will be examined in a series of walks this summer sponsored by the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage. Heritage guides will lead the 1½ hour walks on Saturdays beginning June 1 which will start at the flagpole on the main parade ground of the Presidio near the Officers' Club. The cost will be \$3 and further info is at 441-3004.

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# Webster Students Create Native American Exhibit

An exciting exhibit of Native American culture and artifacts is on display at the Daniel Webster Elementary School, 465 Missouri St. The project was conceived by third and fourth grade teachers in an "integrated curriculum" used in teaching basic skills to their students.

"The importance of shared teaching was the key to the success of this project," stressed the school's principal, Willie Santamaria, who credited teachers Camilla Schneider, Johnny Tang and Joan Moss with the creative hopes that their students could mount such an ambitious project.

The exhibit officially opened to the school's student body, teachers and parents May 24 with a special blessing in both the Indian language Lakota and in English by Dr. Bernard Hoehner, a Native American who is a consultant with the San Francisco State University.

Many of the items in the exhibit were built by the children after studying about Indians and their traditions, and visiting American Indian sites. Other items were loaned by the Native American Museum in San Francisco. A grant from Chevron Corporation helped launch the project.

The project culminated in a visit to the annual Native American Pow Wow at Stanford University in Palo Alto May 8 with approximately 90 youngsters, parents and teachers attending the event.

The public is welcome to visit the museum any school day through June 14 from 8-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4 p.m. Call the school's office at 695-5787 for more information.



Daniel Webster student carefully examines the replica of a Native American village and villagers that his class helped produce for the exhibit.



Dr. Bernard Hoehner poses with third and fourth grade students who worked on the Native America exhibit at the Daniel Webster school  
Ruth Possen photos

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9:00 – 10:00 East Coast Lesson & Practice  
10:00–12:00 Ballroom Dancing

June 21

8:00 – 9:00 Tango Lesson & Practice  
9:00 – 10:00 Merengue Lesson & Practice  
10:00–12:00 Ballroom Dancing

June 28

8:00 – 9:00 Viennese Waltz Lesson & Practice  
9:00 – 10:00 Rumba Lesson & Practice  
10:00–12:00 Ballroom Dancing

SATURDAYS

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9:00 – 12:00 Swing Dancing



# Hill Writer Helps Cushion French "Culture Shock"

By C. J. Hirschfield

Sally Adamson Taylor has the kind of job to kill for. As a foreign correspondent and author, she keeps pieds-a-terre in Hong Kong and Paris, but home is still Potrero Hill.

Her new book, "Culture Shock! France" just hit the stands last month, and is an attempt to provide the reader with an understanding of the way French people interact, both in their public and private lives. It is a very readable study of why the French appear to be — and can in fact be — some of the snottiest buggers on the planet, and how the uninitiated can learn how not only to cope, but also to enjoy the complexities of their rich culture.

The book is geared toward those planning on working for a time in France, but is just as helpful to the adventurous traveller who desires to know more than where the trendiest bistro is located, or how the local currency works.

Over the last 10 years, Taylor has spent a lot of time abroad, covering the international scene for a number of business publications. "Tricontinental" is how she describes her time spent in the U.S., Asia and Europe, and it is clear that she relishes her time overseas. "You can pick up the culture of a country like you can pick up its language," she explains with real enthusiasm. "You can never get it just perfect, but approaching things with an awareness and sensitivity make all the difference."

Her book covers such topics as French culture and society, politics, art, food and wine, home life, business, sex and prostitution, and other practical information. On Americans' overabundance of

enthusiasm: "A happy face smile is the mark of an idiot in France." On the French approach to the art of conversation: "I bicker, therefore I am." On the finer things in life: "The French don't make a clear distinction between food and sex."

Taylor still finds herself returning to her house on the Hill, the neighborhood she's called home since 1972. "Now that I look back, I guess I was a hippie," she admits, and also recalls having worked on some of the first editions of the View. She has also published successful books on bicycle tours of the wine country — for both California and France.

San Francisco and Potrero Hill still impress the world traveler. She points to the city's visual beauty, its combination of gentleness and sophistication, and the vitality of the region, as exhibited by everyone from artists to entrepreneurs.

One of the features of Taylor's new book is a list of "do's and don'ts" one should observe when in France. When asked to create the same sort of list for foreign visitors to Potrero Hill, the good-natured jet-setter suggested the following:

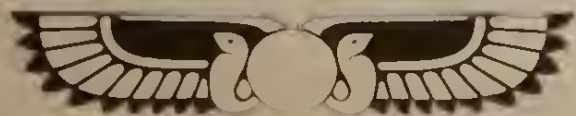
- \* Do not drive a clutch.
- \* Do not attempt to get to Potrero Hill by taking the following streets: 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st or 22nd.
- \* Do not order pizza beyond Goat Hill.
- \* Do not lack an opinion about the issue of open space on 18th and Arkansas.
- \* Do not attempt to bicycle up Rhode Island Street.
- \* Do not ask "What bridge is that?"
- \* Do not ask people how they voted in the last election, unless you're a liberal Democrat.
- \* Do compliment your friends who bought property prior to 1975.
- \* Do not fail to read the Potrero View.

After traveling the world, and taking the time to learn to appreciate widely divergent cultures, author Sally Adamson Taylor still believes that Potrero Hill represents "as wide a range of cultural experiences as you can find in America." Welcome home, Sally.



Rosalind Chao stars as Lulu Nathoo "China Polly" in newly released film "Thousand Pieces of Gold," at the Bridge Theatre, 3010 Geary St. Charlie Bemis and Dennis Dun (above) play the two closest men in her life. Adapted from a novel by Noe Valley's Ruthann Lum McCunn, the film was produced and directed by Nancy Kelly and premiered at the 1990 San Francisco Film Festival. "An Evening With Director Nancy Kelly" is sponsored by No. California Women in Film and Television on June 7 at 7:30 p.m., Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 951 De Haro St. Kelly will discuss her film, and there will be a question and answer period.

Bob Marshak photo



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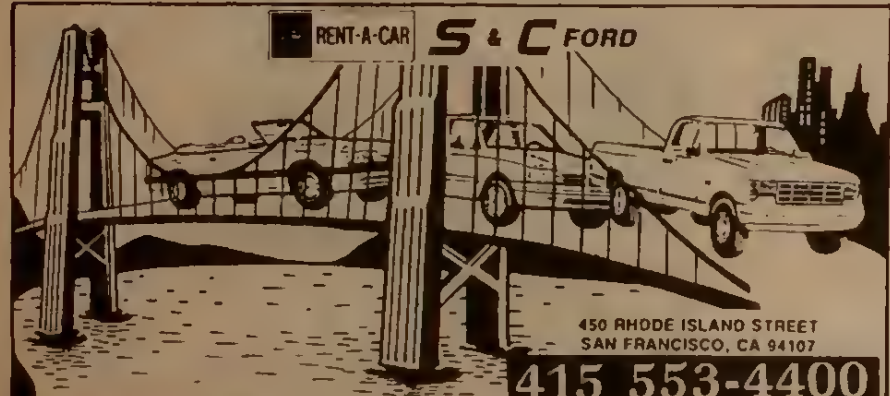
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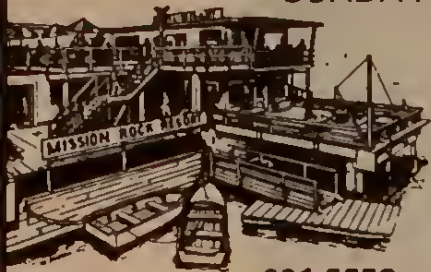
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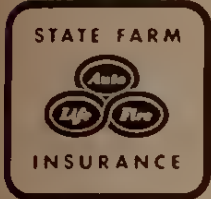
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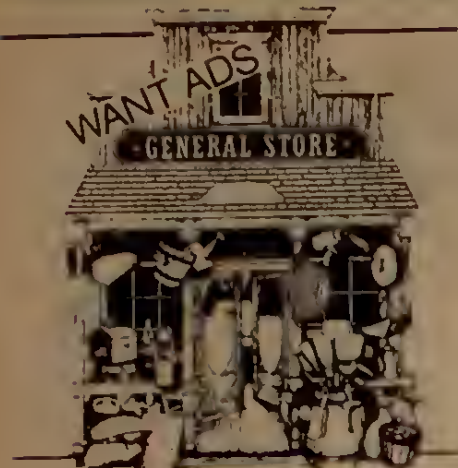
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